[Translation]

Indian Council of World Affairs

5012. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the standard of the Indian Council of World Affairs (Saproo House) situated at Barakhamba Road, New Delhi which is an internationally renowned institution has been constantly declining; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to enhance the standard, to check the misuse of the property of the institution, for safeguarding the interests of the employees and the item-wise quantum of assistance provided by the Government to this institution during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes Sir. The Government has been receiving complaints regarding the unsatisfactory functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), deterioration of the Sapru House Library, complaints of its employees regarding non-payments of Dearness Allowance/Additional Dearness Allowance etc. from members of Parliament, academicians, other eminent personalities, and ICWA Employees' Trade Union.

(b) Since the ICWA is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Rgistration Act, 1886, the Ministry of External Affairs has no direct control over the Functioning of the Council. The Government had, in March 1993, requested the President of the Council to have the Governing Body of the ICWA pass a resolution for the constitution of a High Powered Supervisory/ Advisory Committee to look into the affairs of the ICWA with a view to recommend ways and means to revive it to its pre-eminence. The President of the Council, despite several reminders, oral and written, has not responded at all.

2. The Government has not provided any assistance, financial or otherwise, to the Council for the past ten years.

China-Pak Military Ties

5013. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "China-Pak Military Ties Worry India", published in the 'Pioneer' dated 10th April, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the power balance has been disturbed in the sub continent posing damage to the security of the nation due to supply of military weapons including secret intelligence information by China to Pakistan;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) if so, whether the Government have registered its protest with the Government of China; and

(e) if so, when and the reaction of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Government have seen the news item titled 'China-Pak military ties worry India' which appeared in the 'Pioneer' on 10th April, 1997.

(b) to (e) Government are aware of the extensive defence cooperation between China and Pakistan, including the supply of Chinese weapons and weapon-related technology to Pakistan. Government are also aware of China's involvement with Pakistan's programme for development of nuclear weapons and missiles. Government have raised this issue with the Chinese side from time to time and conveyed our concerns on the subject. Chinese Government have stated that supply of arms to Pakistan is part of their normal bilateral relationship; is limited in nature and does not contravene their obligations under relevant international understandings. Government closely monitor all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measure to safeguard the national interest.

Shortage of LPG

5014. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where shortage has been reported; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to augment the supply of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) LPG Backlogs developed mainly in the Southern/ Western Regions during April, 1997due to inadequate bulk/ packed LPG movement owing to All India Transporters Association Strike.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Oil Companies to augment the supplies of LPG cylinders to the affected areas.

(1) Operating bottling plants on Sundays/Holidays and also for extended hours on daily basis to bottle and despatch maximum number of cylinders to the affected areas.

(2) Arranging hospitality from marketing compainies to meet the requirements of the affected markets.

(3) Arranging Inter-State movement of LPG cylinders from Hazira & Pune Bottling Plants in Western Region to Southern Region.

(4) Monitoring of daily backlog situation and ensuring corrective measures.